

The A. P. of L. Weekly News Service gives a brief summary of important material affecting labor occurring in the legislative and judicial fields, and such other information that would benefit the trade union movement.

WHOLE NO. 896.

WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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WASHINGTON, D. C., SATURDAY, JUNE 9, 1928.

Deadly poisons are often concealed under sweet honey—Ovid.



VOL. 18, NO. 13.

"GOOD" LABOR INJUNCTION JUDGE IS MYTH

The claim that injunction judges should carefully use their power is a revival of the exploited theory under which kings ruled. It is inherent in man to abuse uncontrolled power. The passing of kings is proof of this claim.

The injunction judge sits at a court of conscience. He rules, as did kings, according to his belief. He is unhampered by the Constitution, by statutes, by precedent, by rule or common law.

If guarantees of free speech, free press and most important of all, free thought, his way, he airily sweeps them aside, while he talks of "the law of the land." His guide is his conscience, that varies with man's standards, viewpoints and environment.

POVERTY IS SOCIAL PROBLEM; CAUSE TRACED TO LOW WAGE

Los Angeles, Calif., June 9.—"Poverty is the major contributing factor to all social problems," declared Rev. Fr. Robert E. Lucey, president of the California State Conference of Social Work, in a speech at the conference of the Pacific Coast Social Welfare Association in San Francisco.

The association, a non-sectarian group of men and women interested in social problems, was held at the Hotel California, where Lucey was president.

Lucey was speaking in discussing the effect of poverty on the masses. He said that the cause of poverty is low wages, and that the cause of low wages is the dangerous weakness of our present economic order.

"Our philosophy of private property is sound and the basis of our American institutions," said the priest. "But loyalty and patriotism must be based on the dangerous weakness of our present economic order."

The clergyman gave figures showing the wide gap between the few who have the money and the many who are poor. He said that the cause of poverty is low wages, and that the cause of low wages is the dangerous weakness of our present economic order.

Fr. Lucey declared that 1 per cent of the people of America own 59 per cent of its wealth and 13 per cent own 87 per cent of its wealth. He quoted a recent report of the Federal Reserve Board that shows that the average family of five has less than \$200 in assets, and that the average family of five has less than \$200 in assets.

FIVE POISONED WOMEN GIVEN HEAVY DAMAGES

Newark, N. J., June 9.—The United States Radiator Corporation will pay a heavy cost for the certain death of five young women employees who contracted poisoning while painting wash walls.

The joint suit for \$125,000, filed by the doctored women, was taken out of court by Federal Judge Clark, who entered the case as a habeas corpus. Under the terms of the agreement, the corporation must pay \$10,000 to each of the women or to their heirs. Each woman will receive a pension of \$500 a year, payable quarterly, for the rest of her life.

The corporation will pay all previous medical expenses, not to exceed \$2,000, and the cost of the legal proceedings. The corporation will also pay the cost of the legal proceedings, not to exceed \$5,000.

The corporation agreed to pay for "ordinary and reasonable" medical expenses, such as hospitalization, and the cost of the legal proceedings. The corporation will also pay the cost of the legal proceedings, not to exceed \$5,000.

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A MODEST CORPORATION

New York, June 9.—The Interborough Rapid Transit Corporation asks the city of New York to grant it a franchise to attempt to break a 5-cent contract with the city. The company wants a 2-cent fare.

One of the attorneys receives \$120,000 a year. The corporation has vast sums of money maintaining its company "union" and in retaining at the company of the Interborough Rapid Transit and Electric Railway Association to organize those employees.

Law To Enforce Labor Contracts Will Be Discussed By Bar Group

New York, June 9.—A committee of the American Bar Association has made public the draft of a bill which provides that where organizations of employers and employees have entered into a contract, such agreement shall be enforceable by law.

The draft will be presented to the annual convention of the association, at Seattle, July 28.

Statements of representatives of the A. P. of L., the International Union of Marine and Shipbuilding Workers, and other organizations, are summarized in the report. The committee opposes compulsory arbitration, but it is not clear whether it is in favor of the bill.

"The entire purpose of the bill is to leave parties free to enter any form of contract," said the committee. "It does not require any party to enter into a contract, but it does require that if a contract is entered into, it shall be enforceable by law."

WINE STRIKE LOOMS: OWNERS URGE PEACE

Denver, June 9.—The Rocky Mountain Fuel Company has recognized the United Mine Workers of America and warns the public that another Colorado coal strike looms unless peace is established in this industry.

The miners have started an organizing campaign in Colorado, and the Rocky Mountain Fuel Company declares that peace is possible only by recognizing the workers' right to unite and to select their own representatives.

The recent I. W. W. strike cost Colorado coal consumers several million dollars in excess of a reasonable price, for keeping military forces in the field.

"Business lost millions in the reduced purchasing power of those engaged in the coal industry; the industry itself lost vast sums; the public lost millions of dollars in wages and taxpayers incurred a further loss exceeding \$200,000 as the price of keeping military forces in the field."

COMPANY "UNION" RESTS ON COERCION

A self-styled student of economics insists "there is something wrong" with trade unionism because the company "union" has increased the past year.

Does this student and his kind understand the purpose and meaning of the company "union"? Anti-union employers know they can't preach individualism (which term open shop) in this age of organization. To check their employees' longing for collective action they present a false union. Workers are compelled to join. If they do not join they do not work.

It seems incredible that even a "student of economics" would compare this coercion with the voluntariness of the legitimate trade union.

CLOAK MAKERS ON FIVE-DAY WEEK; UNIONIZATION WILL AID INDUSTRY

New York, June 9.—The cloak, suit and skirt industry of this city has been placed on a five-day week basis with no reduction in wages.

The decision is the result of conferences between employers and officers of the International Ladies' Garment Workers' Union. The latter will launch a drive against small non-union shops that destroy working standards and place union employers at an unfair advantage.

These shops are controlled mainly by Communists. The "reds" are dealt a hard blow by the union's action, which will have a far-reaching effect on the entire trade union movement.

COMPERS' MEMORY REVERED BY LABOR

Yonkers, N. Y., June 9.—A delegation of trade unionists, headed by William Collins, P. O. representative, and officers of the Westchester County Federation of Labor, reverently visited the memory of Samuel Gompers on the anniversary of his death.

The unionists placed flowers on the grave in Sleepy Hollow Cemetery.

Mr. Collins recalled the work and memory of one of the great labor leaders. He said that Gompers was devoted to humanity. President Wilson called attention to the progress trade unionists have made by their refusal to abandon Samuel Gompers' philosophy.

W. G. LEE IS DEFEATED AS TRAINSMAN'S CHIEF

Cleveland, June 9.—William G. Lee, for nearly a quarter of a century president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen, was defeated in the election for the position of chief of the A. F. of L. by Secretary-Treasurer J. W. Patterson.

The vote was 484 to 462.

BOILER DUM PROJECT IF FOR YOKER NEXT FALL

Washington, June 9.—The Boulder Dam project will have a favored position as an "unfished business" on the Senate calendar when Congress convenes next session.

The "only way to protect the farmer and his wife from the economic disaster that could be at the just-adjacent session of Congress."

WINNING FIVE-DAY WEEK

San Francisco, N. Y., June 9.—Painters' unionists in this city are winning a five-day week. Painters' unionists in this city are winning a five-day week.

PAINTERS RAISE WAGES

San Francisco, N. Y., June 9.—Painters' unionists in this city are raising wages. Painters' unionists in this city are raising wages.

POWER TRUST ALERT ON EVERY FRONT

Washington, June 9.—New York public utilities corporations spent \$100,000 in the last year to create a hostile public opinion against the power trusts. The power trusts are alert on every front.

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WIRE TAPPING HELD LEGAL; CLOSE VOIE ON NEW PATH

Washington, June 9.—Wire tapping by government officials to secure an indictment and conviction for a felony was upheld by the United States Supreme Court.

The court divided 5 to 4. Each of the minority justices, Messrs. Holmes, Brandeis, Butler and Stone, read sharp dissenting opinions.

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WAGE EARNERS READ BEST IN LITERATURE

West Baden, Ind., June 9.—Wage earners are reading the best literature. Wage earners are reading the best literature.

WILLIAM ASHTON DEAD

Philadelphia, June 9.—William Ashton, a prominent labor leader, died in this city after a long illness.

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HIGH COURT GIVES LABOR AGENTS FREE HAND TO EXPLOIT WORKERS

Washington, June 9.—The United States Supreme Court has ruled that a state can not fix the fees an employment agent may charge. The decision gives employment agents a free hand in exploiting job seekers. The court divided 6 to 3.

The majority held that a labor employment agent is not different from a stock broker or a ticket broker, all of whom act as agents and who should have freedom in placing a charge on their services.

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